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REPORT

OF THE

Governor, State Engineer and Comptroller

APPOINTED BY ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE TO

APPORTION THE RIVER FUND

AMONG THE

NAVIGABLE WATERS OF TEXAS.

AUSTIN:

PRIN[illegible] JOH[illegible] & CO., STATE PRINTERS.

REPORT

APPORTIONMENT OF THE RIVER FUND,

Made by the Governor, State Engineer, and Comptroller, as provided for by the Laws appropriating $300,000 for the improvement of Navigation upon the Navigable waters of Texas. List of the Subscriptions returned to the Governor, previous to the first day of January, 1857, under and in accordance with the provisions of said acts, viz:

FIRST CLASS RIVERS.		$			
For Colorado river, below Columbus,		10,275	67		
Brazos river, below Washington,		11,900	00		
Trinity river, - - -		3,360	00		
Sabine river, as follows:—By Rusk county from Bacon's Bluff to Logansport, - -	$7,535.00				
By San Augustine county for river generally,	705.00				
By Sabine county for river generally, - -	1,725.00				
By Shelby county for river generally, - -	1,469.50				
		11,434	50		
SECOND CLASS RIVERS, &C.				36,970	17
For Buffalo bayou, - - -		5,000	00		
Big Cypress bayou, and lakes, from Louisiana line to Jefferson, -		4,733	00		
Angelina river, - - -		1,700	00		
Angelina river, from Bevilport to its mouth, and the Naches river from mouth Angelina to Bernis Bluff, - - - -		3,002	50		

San Jacinto, to be expended on Clopper Bar, at its mouth, -		5,050 00		
Guadalupe river, from Victoria to its mouth, - - - -		5,100 00		
San Bernard river, - -		1,250 00		
Oyster creek, - - -		1,000 00		
Canal to connect Gaudalupe river with Mission Bay, - -		2,500 00		
Canal to connect Gaudalupe river and Matagorda Bay through Powderhorn bayou and lakes, -		5,000 00		
BAYS, &C.				
For Galveston bay, as follows :—By Galveston county, for the bay generally, - - -	$2,500.00			34,335 50
By citizens and companies, for Red Fish bar, -	2,500.00			
		5,000 00		
San Luis bay, - - - -		2,500 00		
By citizens of Saluria for improvement of navigation from Saluria, in Matagorda bay, to Gaudalupe river, - -	$1,250.00			
By citizens of Victoria and other counties, for improvement of Espiritu Santo bay, and the channel to Saluria, in Matagorda county, -	1,250.00			
		2,500 00		
By citizens of Nueces county, for Aransaso, San Antonio, and Espiritu Santo bays and bayous, to make a channel between Aransaso and Matagorda bays, - -		2,830 00		
By citizens and companies for a canal to connect the deep water of Aransaso bay with the deep water of Corpus Christi bayou, -		5,000 00		
				17,830 00
Total amount subscribed,				89,135 67

A bond was received from I. T. Hefford, as collector and treasurer of a fund for the improvement of Matagorda bay, from bayou St. Mary to Matagorda anchorage.

Also, a bond from John M. Fleming, as collector and treasurer on Sulphur Fork.

Also, a bond from Joseph H. Sanders, as collector and treasurer for opening a channel from Lavaca to Powderhorn.

But no subscription lists are found for these last three objects.

In considering these subscriptions and apportioning the State fund, we have pursued the following course, viz:

First.—The law allows each collector and treasurer a commission of five per cent. on the amount he receives, and five per cent. on the amount he pays out, making together ten per cent., which is required to be subscribed independent of the amount subscribed for the river, navigable water course or bay. This provision seems to have been overlooked by the collectors and treasurers, as none of them have specified how much of their subscription was for the improvement, independent of their commissions; we have, therefore, deducted ten per cent. from the amount of each subscription, and considered the residue as the amount subscribed for the improvement.

Second.—The amount appropriated by law, and supplemental law, for the improvement of bays, is fifty thousand dollars, and for rivers and other navigable water courses, is two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, but the general appropriation law requires that the salaries of the State Engineer, and sub-Engineers, and the expenses of examining the works to be improved, amounting to the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, shall be taken from the above appropriation. We have taken the fifteen thousand dollars from the two funds in proportion to their respective amounts. This leaves forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars, applicable to bays, and two hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars, applicable to rivers and other works.

Third.—In examining the subscriptions, we have considered the proposed canal for connecting the deep water of the main Aransas bay, with the navigable deep water of Corpus Christi bayou, for which a subscription was returned, as being properly a bay improvement, since the work merely proposes to make a nearer passage than the one now used between different parts of the same bay, and we have not felt authorized to set apart any portion of the fund applicable to the rivers

to this object. We have, therefore, concluded that if any of the State appropriation is applied to this object, it must come out of that portion applicable to Aransas bay.

FOURTH.—In regard to the proposed connection of the Guadalupe river, with the bay of Matagorda through Powderhorn bayou and lakes, we had no satisfactory evidence before us, showing that the subscription, together with the amount that could be taken from the State fund, would be sufficient to accomplish it. What information we could obtain in regard to it, induced us to believe that it could not be done for a much larger amount; we did not, therefore, feel authorized to apply any of the appropriation for this object.

FIFTH.—In regard to the proposed connection of the Guadalupe river with Mission bay or bayou, by a canal, such evidence was submitted to us as lead us to believe that the amount subscribed, with the amount that might be drawn from the State fund would accomplish it, and we have, therefore, assigned a portion of the State fund for that purpose.

SIXTH.—In apportioning the State subscription of $237,500 among the rivers, navigable waters and canals, (exclusive of the bays) we have allowed to the following works, the full amount that their net subscription, after taking out the commission of the collectors and treasurers, would permit them to receive, viz: Colorado river, Brazos river, Trinity river, Sabine river, Buffalo bayou, Big Cypress bayou and lakes from Louisiana line to Jefferson, Angelina river, Neches river, from mouth of Angelina to Barnis' Bluff, and Angelina river from its mouth to Bevilport, San Jacinto river, on Clopper's Bar, Guadalupe river, and canal connecting Guadalupe river with Mission bay. These improvements consume $230,600 44 of the appropriation, leaving a balance of $6,899 56, which we have apportioned to the San Bernard river and Oyster creek, giving them less than their net subscription would entitle them to, because we consider them as local improvements.

SEVENTH.—In apportioning the appropriation for bays, we have allowed to each bay for which any subscription was returned, the full amount that its net subscription, after deducting the Collector's and Treasurer's commissions, would permit it to receive, except San Luis bay, to which we have apportioned the residue of the appropriation, because this bay accommodated a less extent of country than either of the other bays.

The following table will more clearly show how we have distributed the fund :

NAME.	Gross amount subscribd by individuals as reduced.	Collector and Treasurer's commission.	Net am't subscribed by individuals.	Net am't allowed by the State.	TOTAL FUND.
1ST CLASS RIVERS.					
Colorado,	10,275 67	1,027 56	9,248 11	36,992 44	46,240 55
Brazos,	11,900 00	1,190 00	10,710 00	42,840 00	53,550 00
Trinity,	3,360 00	336 00	3,024 00	12,096 00	15,120 00
Sabine,	11,434 50	1,143 45	10,291 05	41,164 20	51,455 25
2D CLASS RIVERS, &c.					
Buf. bayou,	5,000 00	500 00	4,500 00	18,000 00	22,500 00
Big Cypress bayou,	4,733 00	473 30	4,259 70	17,038 80	21,298 50
Angelina,	1,700 00	170 00	1,530 00	6,120 00	7,650 00
Angelina and Neches	3,002 50	300 25	2,702 25	10,809 00	13,511 25
San Jacinto	5,050 00	505 00	4,545 00	18,180 00	22,725 00
Gaudalupe	5,100 00	510 00	4,590 00	18,360 00	22,950 00
do. canal,	2,500 00	250 00	2,250 00	9,000 00	11,250 00
S Bernard,	1,064 74	106 47	958 27	3,833 08	4,791 35
Oyster cr'k,	851 50	85 18	766 02	3,066 48	3,833 10
	65,972 21	6,597 21	59,375 00	237,500 00	296,875 00
BAYS, &c.					
Galveston,	2,777 77	277 77	2,500 00	10,000 00	12,500 00
Matagorda,	2,500 00	250 00	2,250 00	9,000 00	11,250 00
Spi. Santo,	2,777 77	277 77	2,500 00	10,000 00	12,500 00
Aransas,	2,777 77	277 77	2,500 00	10,000 00	12,500 00
San Luis,	2,361 10	236 10	2,125 00	8,500 00	10,625 00
	13,194 41	1,319 41	11,875 00	47,500 00	59 375 00

RECAPITULATION.

Net amount subscribed by individuals to rivers,	$ 59,375 00
" " " " " " bays,	11,875 00
Total amount subscribed by individuals,	$ 71,250 00
Net amount appropriated by the State,	285,000 00
Total fund, - - - - - - -	356,250 00

E. M. PEASE,
WILLIAM FIELDS,
GEORGE J. DURHAM,
Acting Comptroller.

AUSTIN, February 5th, 1857.